

Current Status – ESSC Project

September 1, 2008

1. The building designs are largely completed for both the Helena and Miles City ESSCs. The design effort was extended by a month to conduct an energy study and to research the Kyoto Cooling alternative. The project will go out for bid later this month and a contractor is expected to be under contract by the end of October with ground-breaking to take place this fall. Occupancy of the Helena ESSC is expected in January 2010. The Miles City ESSC will be completed in the fall of 2009.
2. The Helena building design will use the Kyoto Cooling Wheel technology described in earlier reports. Due diligence activities are underway, including a site visit to an existing installation of the cooling wheel technology this week. Due to facility size and lower cost electricity, it isn't practical to use this approach for the Miles City site.
3. The MOU between DOA/ITSD and MDT for use of a site on MDT property is awaiting signing by the MDT Director.
4. The IT project (actually a number of "subprojects") to relocate the Mitchell Building ITSD data center to the Helena ESSC, and to make use of the facilities, is in the planning stage. Preliminary plans have been drafted and Chad Christensen has come onboard to add project management support focused on this part of the overall project.
5. Budget continues to be an area of concern. Once the construction bids come in we will know how we sit with regard to the \$14.5 million appropriated. In general, construction costs have been softening, however our emphasis on electrical infrastructure may offset this trend. Only the bid results will determine where we stand for certain. Additional funding for ITSD moving into the ESSC has been proposed.

For additional information please contact Mike Boyer (x3279).